

THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS

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WE are sure the guild at large will enjoy hearing from Miss Lizzie J. Woods, a member of the Boston Branch, who is now a missionary in Alaska:

“MISSION OF THE HEAVENLY REST,
CIRCLE CITY, ALASKA, August 30, 1902.

“I had a very delightful journey, and the weather and scenery were beautiful. I arrived here at one-thirty A.M. It was a perfect day, being the time of the Midnight Sun. The Indians were up, and all came to shake hands with me, even little babies. . . . That day a mother brought her sick baby to me. She stayed herself to take care of it, but next morning it was dead of pneumonia. The same day three other children were sick, and their mother wanted them to be at the mission. Two had pneumonia and one meningitis. The pneumonia patients recovered, the other died. Two more patients died of meningitis. Out of ten patients I have had five deaths in about six weeks. . . . The Indian mothers and fathers are very fond of their children. They recognize when they are very sick and hang over them, worrying and watching every breath they draw. When they see the child is really dying they go away into a corner until the suffering is over; then they come and smile and kiss the little hands and feet, and the greatest part of their sorrow seems to have passed. I dress the little one and make its shroud. They manage to get white ribbons and muslin, and seem so pleased to have it so prettily dressed in white with ribbons and flowers. We have an abundance of beautiful wild flowers. . . . We put the little body in the church, where it remains until the day of the funeral. Then somebody brings in a wooden cross. I mark the little one's name on it. . . . The Indians are a very helpless people and don't seem able to do much work. Just one week ago my last little patient was buried. I have had my house cleaned, and to-morrow I start school. I am going to have the children in the morning and perhaps in the afternoon and evening.

“I am going to have a reading-class of the young men and girls who speak and read English a little. I think we shall read the Psalms. I want to train someone to interpret. To-day after Sunday-school I had a service for grown people. There were thirty-six present. I tried to read a simple instruction to them. The young man who interpreted did not understand very well. I endeavored to express the thought in the simplest possible language. We got through somehow, and they said they understood part of it. The young people are so anxious to learn English. . . . The bishop was here in August and we had a very happy time. He arrived between one and two A.M. The Indians were expecting him, so some met the boat. He told them there would be a service at four o'clock in the afternoon, and though they were all fishing some forty miles away, we had a congregation of sixty-five. One baby was baptized and two who had received lay baptism were received into the Church. . . . In the evening the

bishop had another service and talked with the people afterwards. The next morning, August 6, we had a celebration at ten o'clock. Part of the service was in English and part in the Indian language. Then we had a wedding. . . . The bishop left next morning about midnight. Mr. Rice (our new missionary) will come September 10. The little church, like all the buildings in Circle, is built of logs and stuffed with moss between the logs; the roofs are mud. The walls are covered with white drilling—no longer white. We have a little home-made altar and lectern and a Bible. We have some prayer- and hymn-books in English and the Indian hymn-books—but that is all. Some altar linen has been promised. The mission house, in which Mr. Rice will live, was one mass of débris. They had a fire there and left the place. Then the bishop got at it. Miss O. and I, with three Indian women, did a lot of cleaning one day, and after working four days with six Indians we had quite a respectable-looking house. Someone made me a couch out of a spring-bed. We had an extra bed and furnishings and two tables. I have bought a stove and may get a rug. It is quite dark now at nine o'clock in the evening, and I think the sun must begin to rise about four. The weather (September 2) is beginning to get chilly and the flowers are all gone. The summer has been delightful. . . . My school is very satisfactory, but I get so tired. It is so hard to make them understand. I have worked at four hymns ever since I have been here, and, really, to-day they seemed to know 'Jesus, meek and gentle.' . . ."

HARTFORD.—The Hartford Branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas held its meeting for November on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 19th day of the month, at Trinity Church. The Executive Committee of the Visiting Nurse Association was called together for the transaction of business an hour before the meeting of the guild. Dr. Hart, chaplain of the guild, conducted the religious service, commencing at half-past three o'clock, after which all adjourned to the pleasant assembly-room of the Parish-House. The hour following was devoted to listening to a delightful account of the General Convention of the Guild of St. Barnabas held in Philadelphia in November, which was given by Miss Beach, secretary of the Hartford Branch, and Miss Wilkinson, our visiting nurse, who attended the convention as delegates.

The December meeting was held at Christ Church Parish-House on the evening of Wednesday, the 17th day of the month. Much illness, the busy season, and "heavy weather" all combined to cause a small attendance. Dr. Hart, the chaplain, read prayers and delivered a brief address in the chapel at half-past eight o'clock.

The short hour following the service was spent in friendly, informal visiting around the pretty tea-table in the parish assembly-room. We were much pleased to have as our guest Miss Hodgson, the matron of the New Britain Hospital, and an interested and enthusiastic member of the Boston Branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas.

BROOKLYN.—Instead of the usual monthly meeting of the L. I. C. H. A. A. a reception was given by the members of the Executive Committee on Tuesday afternoon, January 6, in the Nurses' Club, 184 Amity Street, some sixty members being present, all the arrangements for which were carried out in a unique manner. A liberal supply of refreshments was provided by one of the best of the Brooklyn caterers, and heartily enjoyed by those present. The company were

pleasingly entertained by a late member of the choir of St. Thomas's Church, New York, who sang some half-dozen pieces in a masterly manner, social converse filling up the intervals. It was a very enjoyable time to all present.

CHICAGO.—The Trinity Branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas has been quietly and steadily going on its way. The number of members is gradually increasing and there is a fair amount of interest among the nurses, though not nearly as much as should be shown.

I think we often forget the obligations we voluntarily take upon ourselves when we join the guild, otherwise we surely would take more interest in our meetings than we usually do. We ought to remember that unless each member does her part we cannot hope for real success. Our February meeting was of particular interest. The programme, which consisted of an informal and interesting talk by Dr. Van Hoosen and of several vocal numbers, rendered in masterly style, was in charge of a committee from the Woman's Hospital. We heartily congratulate them on their successful entertainment. The programme was concluded by a most earnest talk from the Rev. T. B. Phillips, the new rector of Trinity Church, which was listened to with the greatest attention by all present. A short business meeting was then held, after which refreshments were served and a pleasant social hour spent. The sick-benefit fund is steadily increasing, owing entirely to the persistent efforts of the treasurer, Mrs. E. M. Bourchier, who has been devoting herself to the work. We have missed her kindly presence among us for some time past, owing to ill-health, and are longing to have her among us again. On the whole, I think we have much reason to feel thankful that our chapter of the guild is in as good a condition as it is at present.

ORANGE, N. J.—On January 29 the guild service was held for the first time in Christ Church, Bloomfield, the rector, the Rev. Mr. White, having during the past year become a priest-associate. A special trolley-car was chartered to convey the members from Orange. In spite of the threatening weather, about twenty-five were promptly on time to take advantage of the conveyance, and about the same number reached the church by divers ways. The full choir of boys assisted in the singing of the service, and a very able address was given by the rector on the subject of the Epiphany, "the manifestations of God's power, which is always with us." A very short business meeting followed the service, and a reception was given by the ladies of the parish and Mrs. White, which was most enjoyable. It is to be hoped that this first meeting in that direction may lead to interest in guild matters and future services in other churches, inspiring nurses to join who hitherto have been strangers. The sewing meetings continue to be held at their appointed dates and have been well attended.

Miss Corinne Heyward has had a sharp attack of pneumonia, but is, fortunately, recovering.

MISS E. BEATRICE OAKES, of Boston, whose appointment was announced last month as a missionary nurse, left Boston January 20, expecting to sail direct for Manila from San Francisco by the steamer *Gaelic* on January 28. Miss Oakes is to be associated with Bishop Brent in his new work in the Philippines.